Measuring Man's Days to Come-The Great Orb of Light and Life May Las The Secret of the Sun's Heat.

It seems to be worth while to collect together what may be said on the subject of the duration of life on the globe It is a noteworthy fact that the possihuman race depends fundamentally upon the question of heat. If heat, or what is equivalent to heat, does not last, then man cannot last, either. There

is no shirking this plain truism. Of course it is obvious that the available heat generally comes from the sun. So far as the coal goes, we have already observed that as it is limited to quantity can afford no perennial supply. Doubtless there is in the earth some quantity of other materials capable of oxidation or of undergoing other chemical change, in the course of which and as an incident of such change heat is evolved. The amount of heat that can strictly limited. There is in the entire earth just a certain number of units of heat possible from such combinations, but after the combination has been effected there cannot be any more heat from this source.

Then as to the internal heat of the earth due to the incandescent state of its interior. Here there is no doubt a large store of energy, but still it is of limited quantity, and it is also on the wane. This heat is occasionally copiously liberated by volcanoes, but ordinarily the transit of heat from the interior to the surface and its discharge from thence by radiation is a slow process It is, however, sufficient for our present purpose to observe that slow though the escape may be, it is incessantly going There is only a definite number of units of heat contained in the interior of the earth at this moment, and as they are gradually diminishing, and as there is no source from whence the loss can be replenished, there is here no supply of warmth that can be relied on perma-

'It goes without saying that the welfare of the human race is necessarily connected with the continuance of the sun's beneficent action. If the sun ever ceases to shine, then must it be certain that there is a term beyond which human existence, or indeed organic existence of any type whatever, cannot any longer endure on earth.

But we have grounds for knowing as a certainty that the sun cannot escape from the destiny that sooner or later overtakes the spendthrift. In his inter-esting studies of this subject Professor Langley gives a striking illustration of the rate at which the solar heat is being squandered at this moment. He remarks that the great coal fields of Pennsylvania contain enough of the precious mineral to supply the wants of the United States for 1,000 years. If all that tremendous accumulation of fuel were to be extracted and burned in one vast conflagration the total quarkity of heat that would be produced would no doubt be stupendous. and yet, says this authority who has taught us so much about the sun, all the heat developed by that terrific coal fire would not be equal to that which the sun pours forth in the thousandth part

When we reflect that this expenditure of heat has been going on not alone for the centuries during which the earth has been the abode of man, but also for those periods which we cannot estimate

Ist. 2md and 3rd premiums on sweet po except by saying that they are doubtless millions of years during which there has been life on the globe, then indeed we begin to comprehend how vast must have been the capital of heat with which the sun started on its career.

And yet we feel certain that the incessant radiation from the sun must be producing a profound en of energy. The only way of reconciling this with the total absence of evidence of the expected changes is to be found in the supposition that such is the mighty mass of the sun, such the prodigions supply of heat, or what is equivalent to heat that it contains, that the grand transformation through which it is passing proceeds at a rate so slow that during the ages accessible to our observations the results achieved have been imperceptible. But the energy of the system is as surely declining as the energy of the clock declines as the weight runs down.

It seems that the sun has already dis-sipated about four-fifths of the energy with which it may have originally been endowed. At all events, it seems that, radiating energy at its present rate, the sun may hold out for 4,000,000 years, or for 5,000,000 years, but not for 10,000. 000 years. Here, then, we discern in the remote future a limit to the duration of life on this globe. We have seen that it does not seem possible for any other source of heat to be available for replenishing the waning stores of the luminary. It may be that the heat was originally imparted to the sun as the result of some great collision between two bodies which were both dark before the collision took place, so that, in fact. the two dark masses coalesced into a vast nebula from which the whole of our system has been evolved. Of course it is always conceivable that the sun mey be reinvigorated by a repetition of a similar startling process

It is, however, hardly necessary to observe that so terrific a convulsion would be fatal to life in the solar sys tem. Neither from the heavens above nor from the earth beneath does it seen possible to discover any rescue for the human race from the inevitable end The race is as mortal as the individual and, so far as we know, its span cannot under any circumstances be run out beyond a number of millions of years which can certainly be told on the fingers of both hands, and probably on the fingers of one. - Robert S. Ball in Fort nightly Review.

tation, relying on the profits they obtain from the medicines they prescribe for emolument. Certain standard prescriptions they have put up in quantities, and these they sell directly to the patient. Where a prescription has to be compounded the patient is sent to a certain drug store, at which the doctor has at

arrangement for his commissions. Between these two devices the practitioner really captures a reasonable fee and he gets it, moreover, in cash, where he otherwise might have to give credit. with a strong show of loss, for though patients will not dream of demanding credit for medicines, they make very small bones about leaving the doctor's bill unpaid once he has permitted them to run it up .- New York Cor. Pittsburg

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